



Wirral's Children Millfields Primary

Consultation
January 2006



The meeting

- Short presentation about:
 - The Review process
 - The Options which affect this school
- Your comments



The Primary Places Review:

September 2004

Audit Commission report on Surplus Places

October 2004

Council begins reviewing North, South, Central Birkenhead and Beechwood

October 2005

Proposals published for North Birkenhead, Beechwood and South Birkenhead



The Primary Places Review:

October 2005

Council begins reviewing Bebington, Spital, Thornton Hough, Bromborough and Eastham

December 2005

Council decides to consult on options for Bromborough and Eastham



Important to:

- Focus on the needs of children not schools
- Think about the next generation
- Share information
- Trust one another
- What will work, and what will not work?



Surplus places – why do we need to act?

- Audit Commission says **surplus space** in schools should be **between 5% and 10%**
- Above 10%, wasting money supporting empty classrooms
- 4%-5% allows degree of parental choice
- No school should have more than 25% surplus – annual return to Government



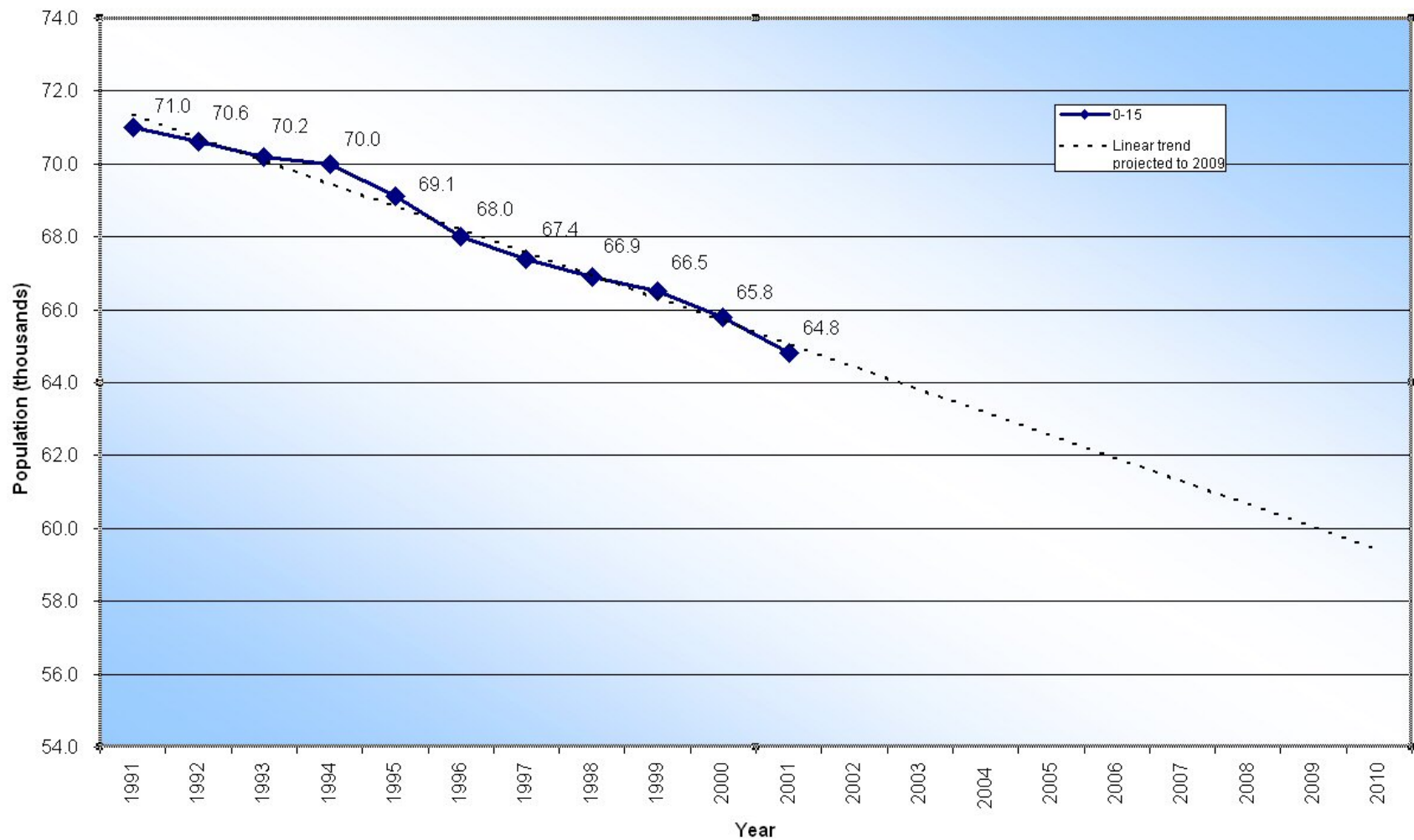
Outcome of Children's Services Inspection, December 2005

- In the primary sector there are too many surplus places.
- Progress in reducing surplus primary school places has been slow, but a clear strategy is now being implemented which is likely to involve some school closures.

Falling population - Wirral

Actual and estimated resident population for Wirral - Children aged 0-15 in line with 2001 Census

(Source: Office for National Statistics)





Surplus places in Wirral

In 2005

12% empty places

Spending £4.2 million pounds or £165 per primary pupil on empty spaces

By 2010

20% surplus places

Spending £7 million on empty spaces

1 in 3 schools will have more than 25% surplus places



Creative removal of surplus

LEA and Schools have created:

- ICT suites
- Libraries
- Parents rooms
- Pre-school playgroups
- Afterschool/Breakfast clubs
- Adult Learning facilities
- Bases for other services

And removed:

- Temporary mobiles

Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- Location
- Where parents choose to send their children
- Value for money
- Catchment zones
- Housing changes
- Traffic and transport
- Denominational issues



How small is small?

- School Organisation Plan (2003) says under 210
- Wirral Policy (2005) says under 180
- DfES (2005) says under 150



Small Schools

- Financial – maintaining small school is at the expense of all children
- Organisational issues – mixed age classes
- Additional burden on staff
- Curriculum issues



Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

Brackenwood Infant
Brackenwood Junior
Church Drive Primary
Grove Street Primary
Higher Bebington Jr
Stanton Road Primary
Town Lane Infant

St Andrew's CE
St John's Infant
St John's Junior
Poulton Lancelyn
Thornton Hough

Surplus places in Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

In 2005

8% surplus places

By 2010

14% surplus places

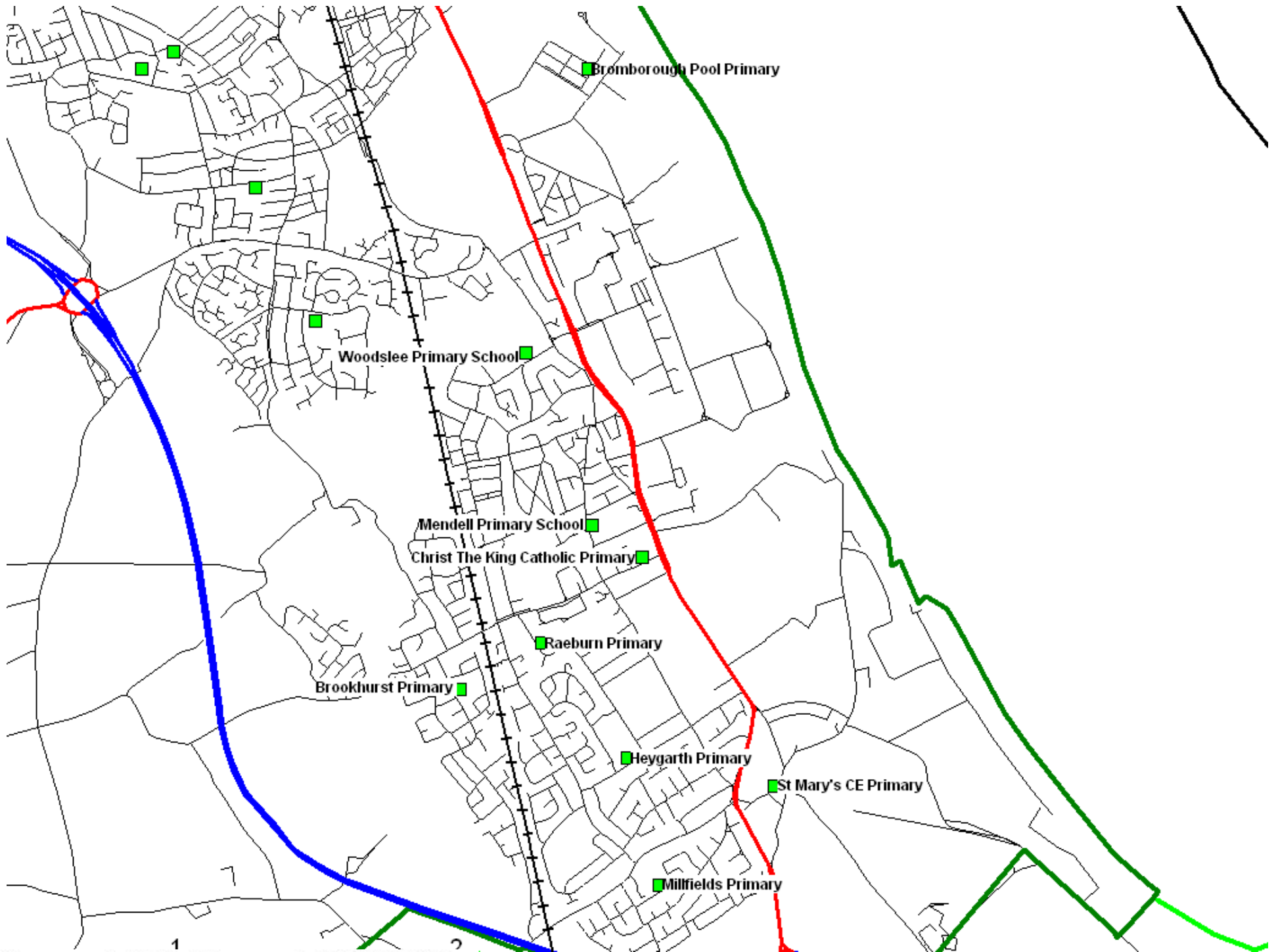
No action at this time – continue to monitor situation

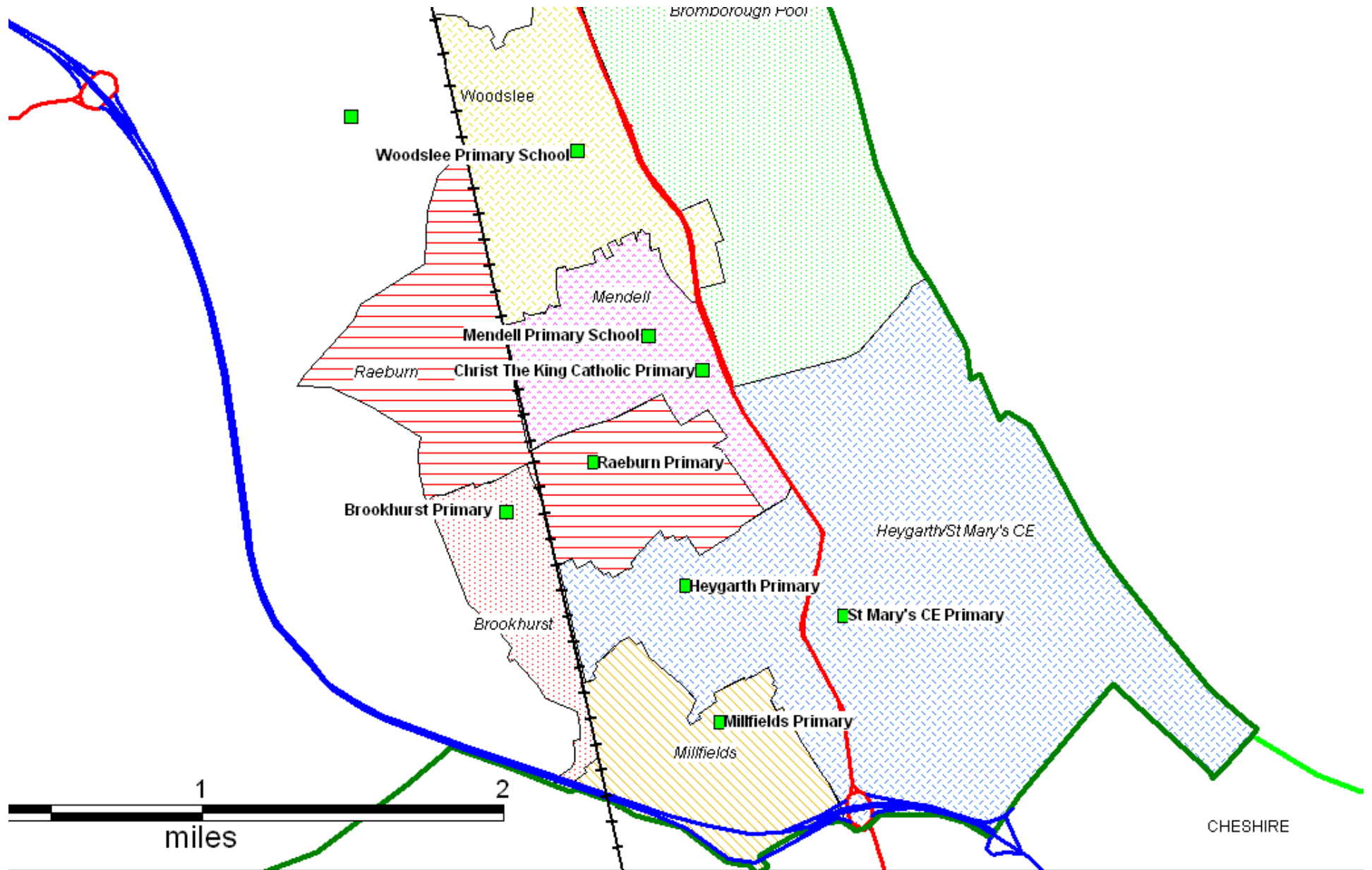


Bromborough and Eastham

Brookhurst
Bromborough Pool
Heygarth
Mendell
Millfields
Raeburn
Woodslee

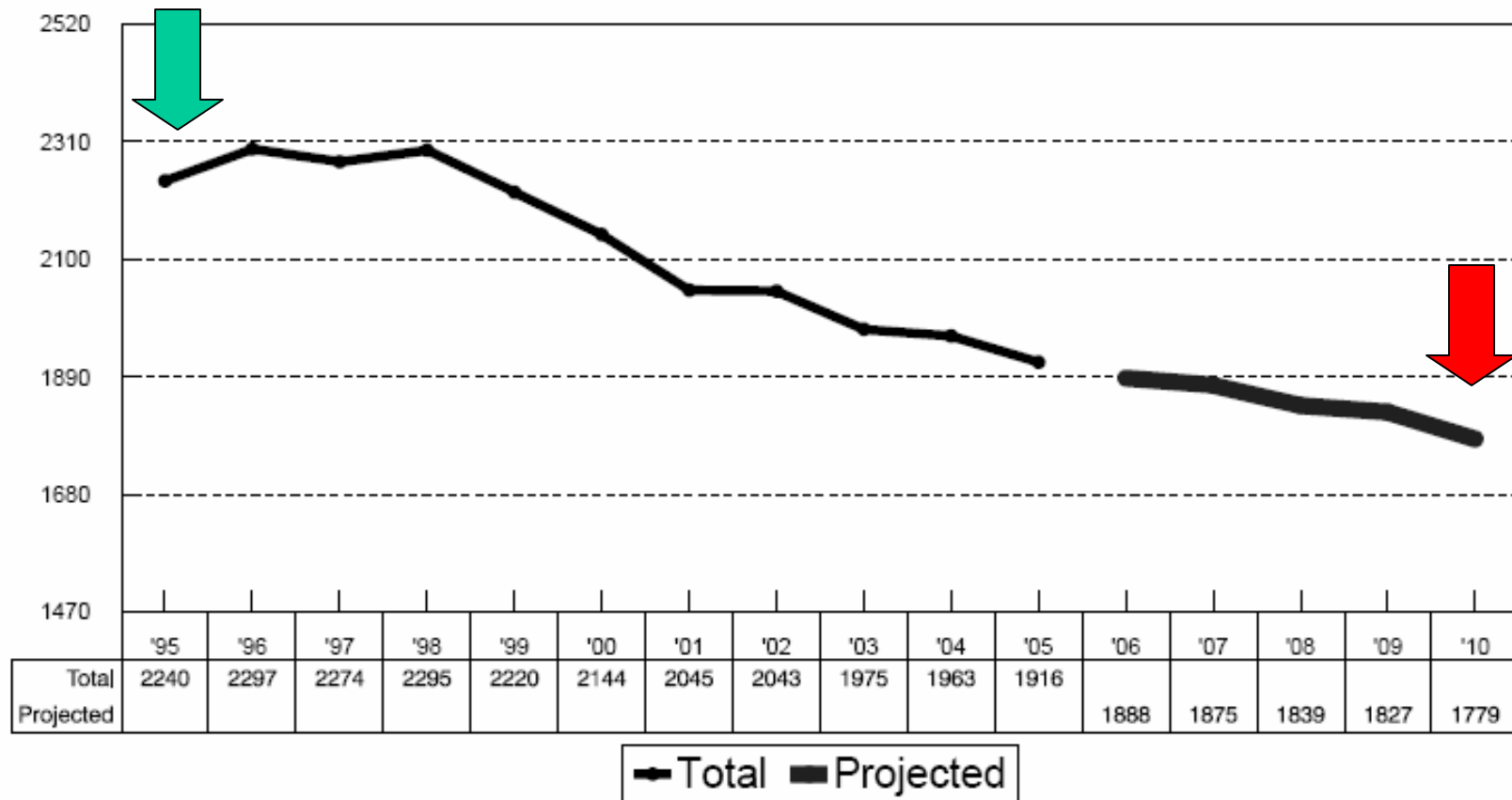
St Mary's CE
Christ the King Catholic





Bromborough/Eastham Projections

Bromborough Primary Schools
Numbers on Roll 1995-2005 and proj to 2010





Surplus places in Bromborough/Eastham Area

In 2005

17% surplus places

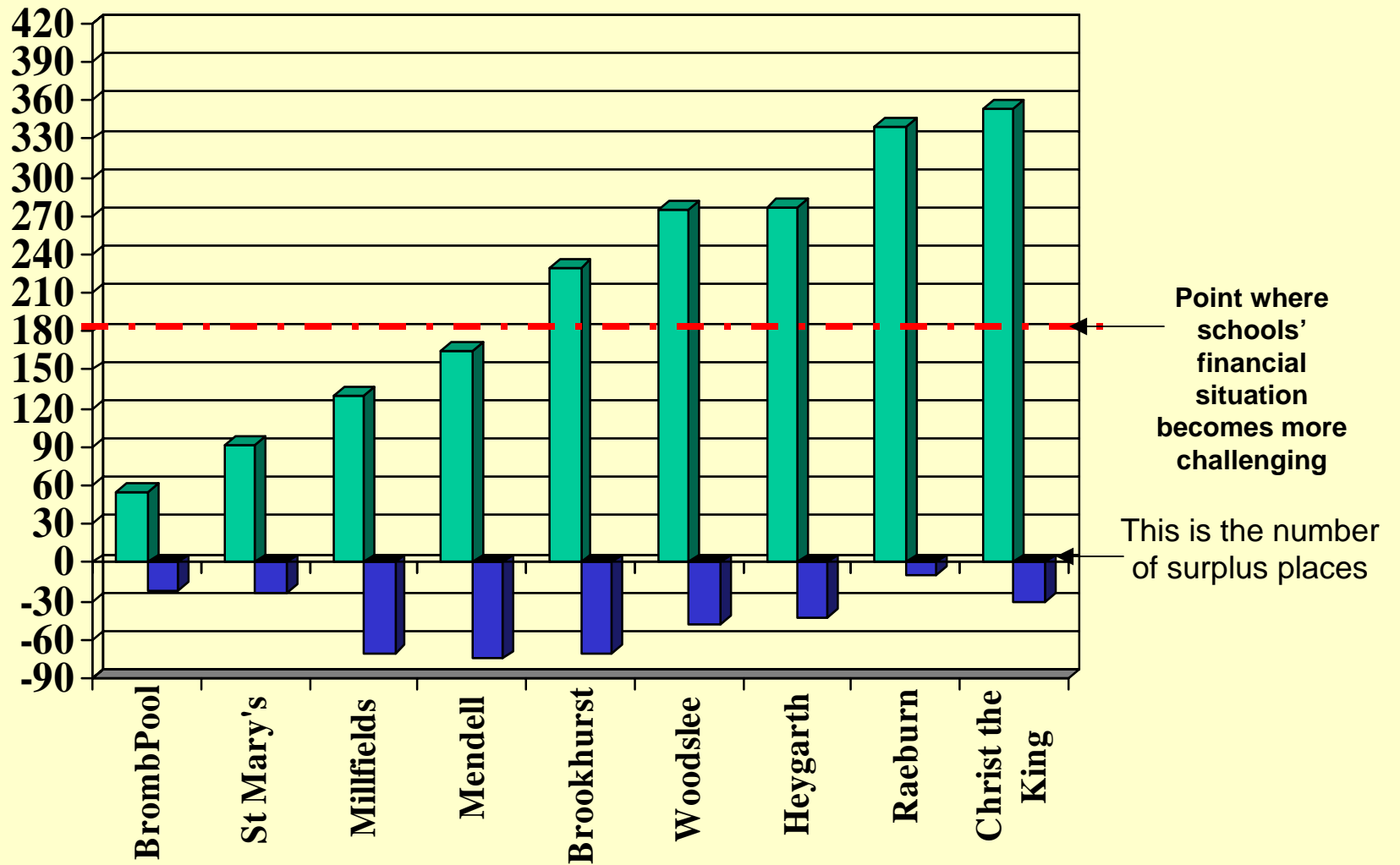
By 2010

23% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places



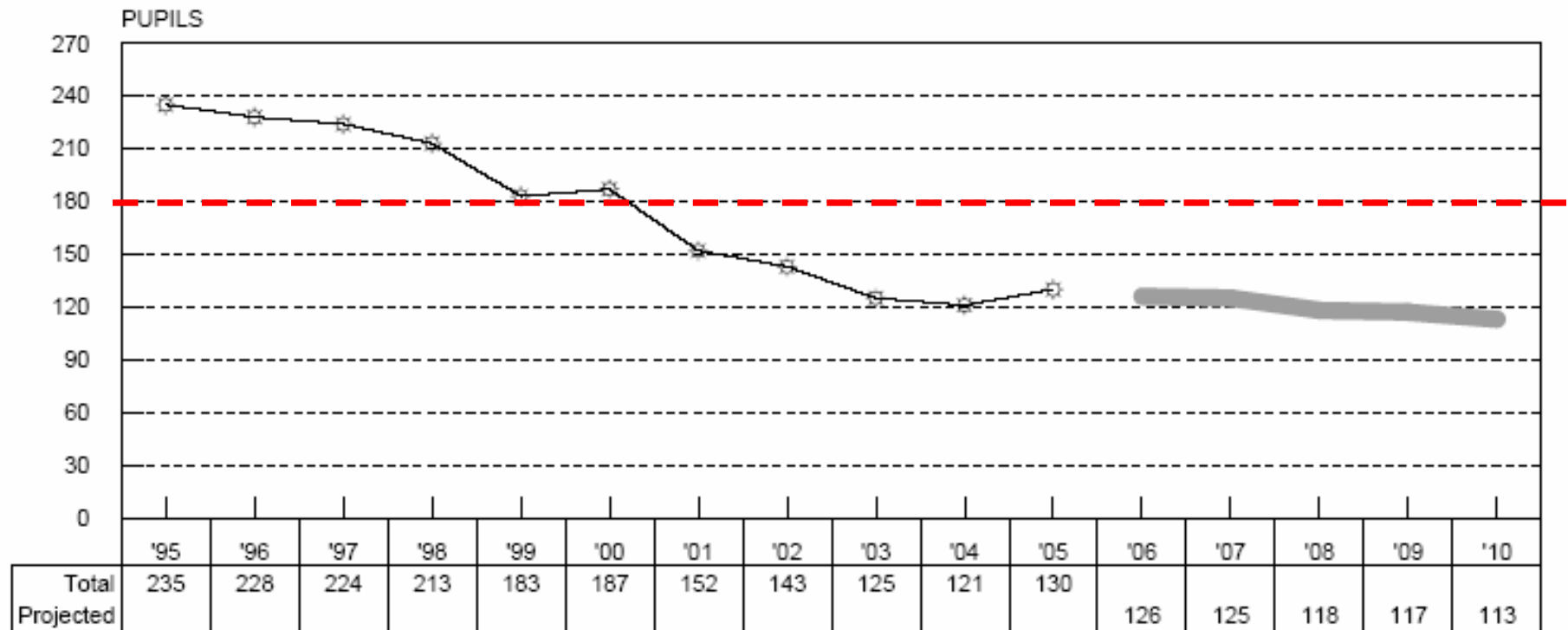
School size and surplus places



MILLFIELDS PRIMARY

NOR 1995-2005 and Projected to 2010

As at: January



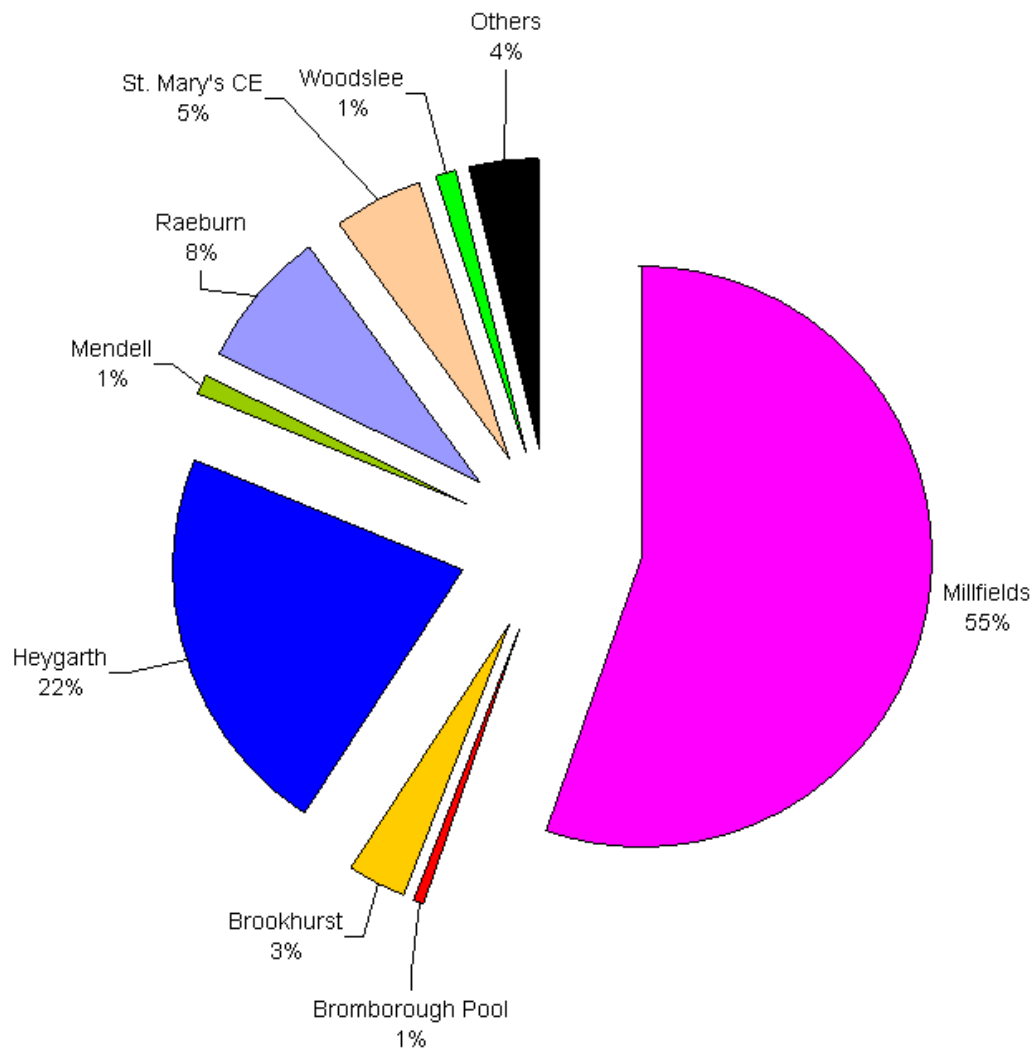
N.O.R.

⊛ Total ■ Projected

Former Mill Park Infant and Mill Park Junior
Amalgamated 1996



Millfields Catchment Area -Actual School attended



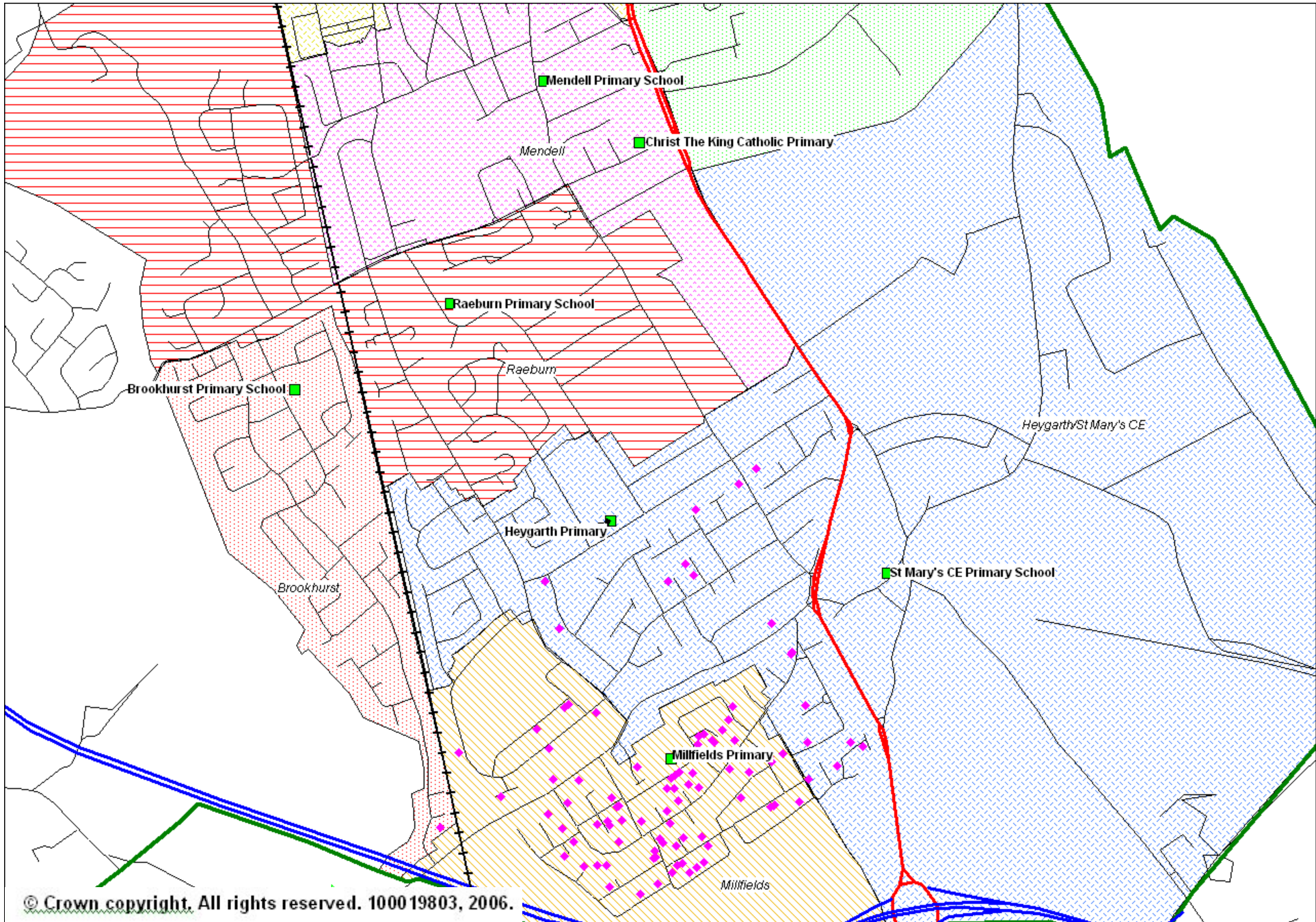
Total Community/CE pupils in catchment = 181

Number of pupils by school	(Reflux)
Millfields	100
Heygarth	40 (26)
Raeburn	14 (0)
St Mary's CE	9
Brookhurst	6 (1)
Mendell	2 (1)
Woodslee	2 (0)
Bromborough Pool	1 (0)
Others	7 (2)



What Ofsted said (2003)

- School enables its pupils to make consistently good progress in developing their literacy and numeracy skills, and to achieve standards, by the age of 11, which are above average in science, history and art and design.
- The teaching throughout the school is predominantly good and often of high quality.
- The school provides a curriculum which is rich and relevant.
- Very good provision is made for pupils' personal and social development, promoting their very good attitudes towards the school.
- A very strong partnership has been established with parents.
- The quality of leadership provided by the headteacher and staff at different levels of responsibility is of a high calibre.
- The school needs to achieve greater consistency in the quality of teaching in PE, where some lessons provide insufficient challenge for the pupils.





Possible options for Bromborough and Eastham

- A Brookhurst
- B Bromborough Pool
- C Heygarth, St Mary's and Millfields
- D Mendell



- Options involve all the schools in this area directly, except:
- Christ the King - only Catholic school in this area
- Raeburn – stable school with few surplus places – it may be indirectly affected by some of the options



Options

All the C options relate to schools in Eastham

St Mary's CE, Heygarth and Millfields

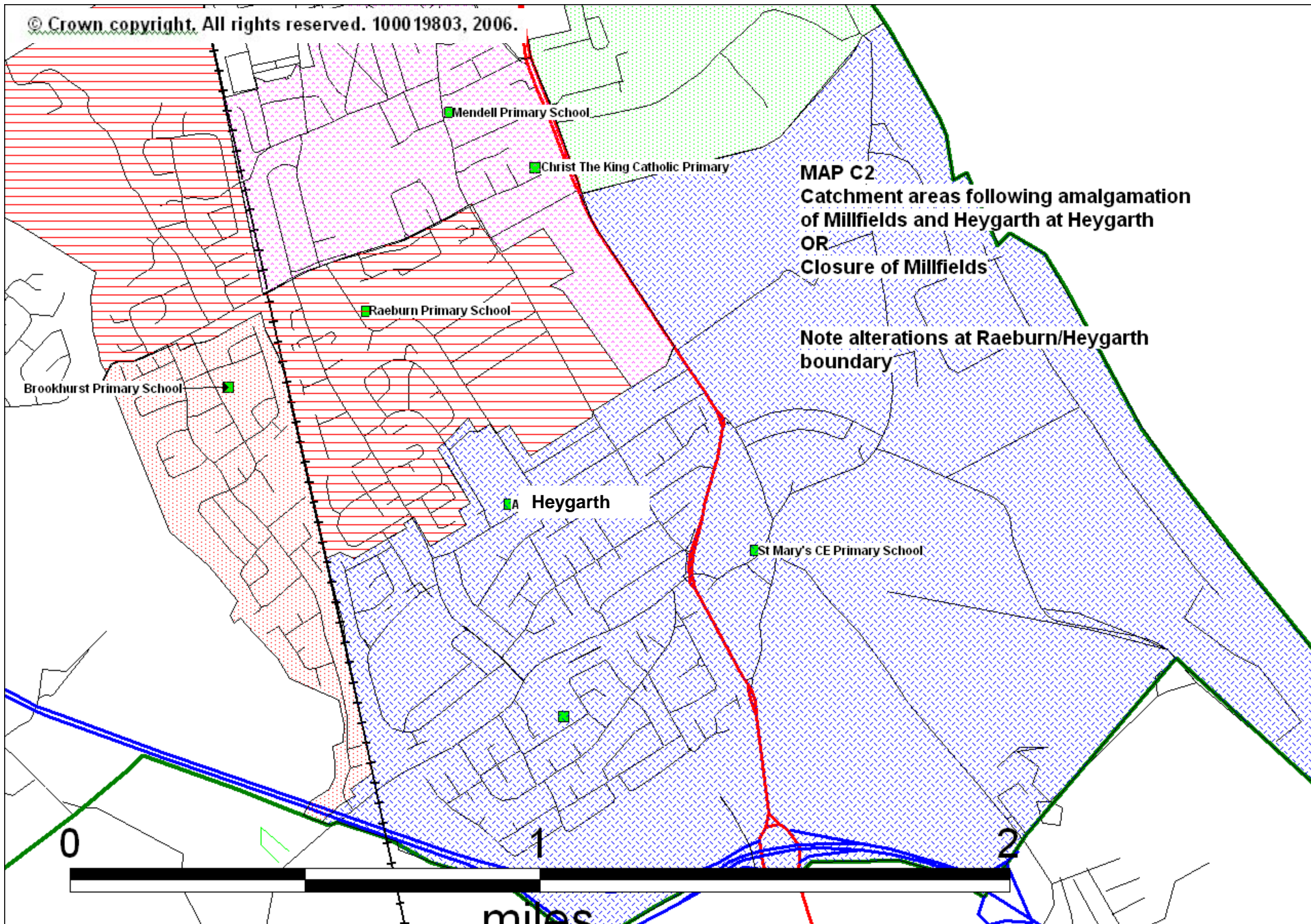
These are the options we will explain in more detail



C2: Closure of Millfields Primary

- Children transfer to local schools – some already go to Heygarth and Raeburn
- Millfields catchment joins Heygarth catchment
- Some changes at Heygarth/Raeburn boundary
- May require new classroom at Raeburn

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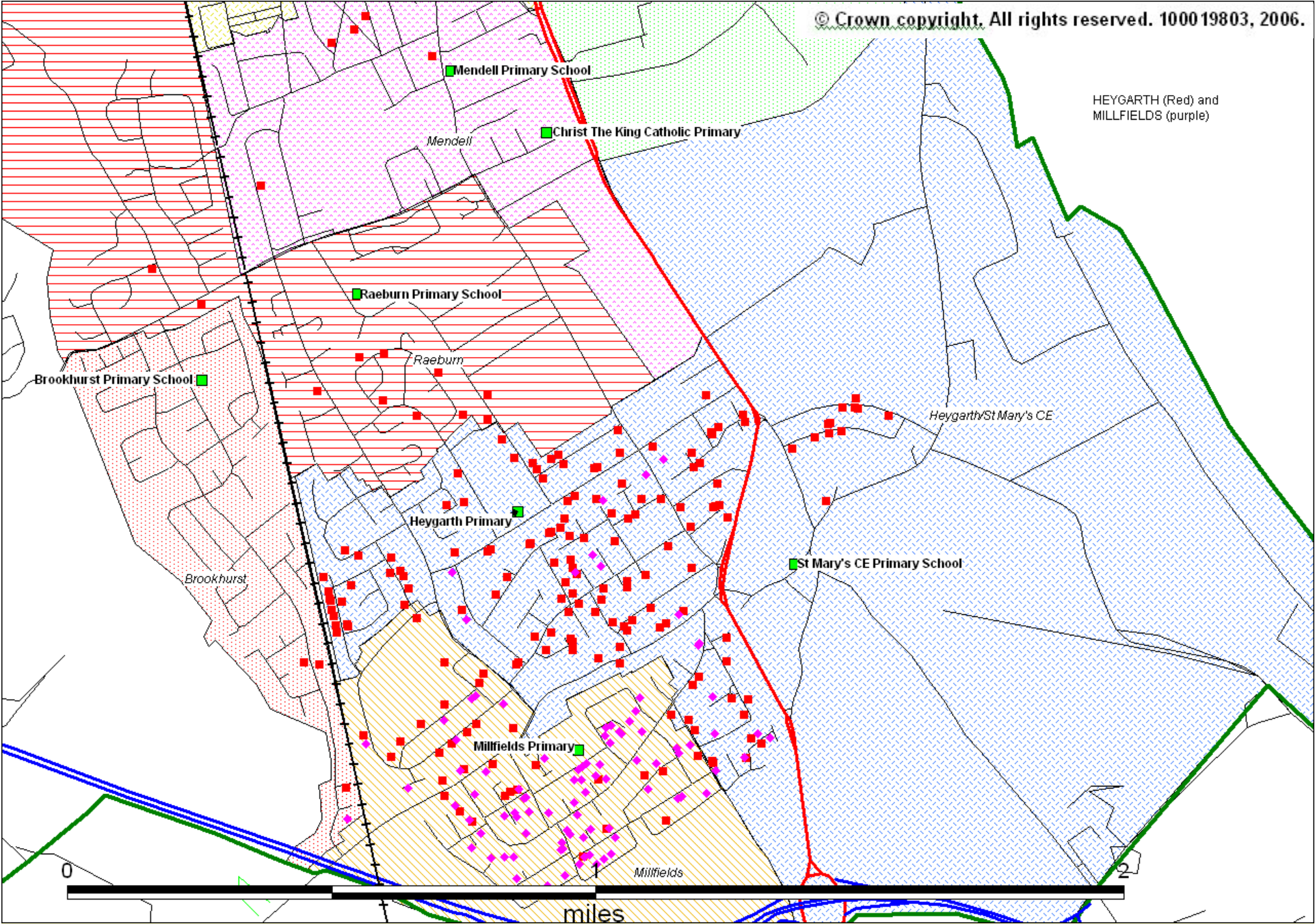
C3: Build replacement CE school in Eastham, Close Millfields

- Millfields closes
- Replacement CE school built for St Mary's CE (210 pupils); in Eastham – cost £3-5 million
- Potential sites not yet investigated
- Catchments rezoned – Millfields joins Heygarth/St Mary's zone
- Replacement building likely to be popular with parents - school likely to be full – may increase surplus elsewhere
- Trustees decide future of former St Mary's building



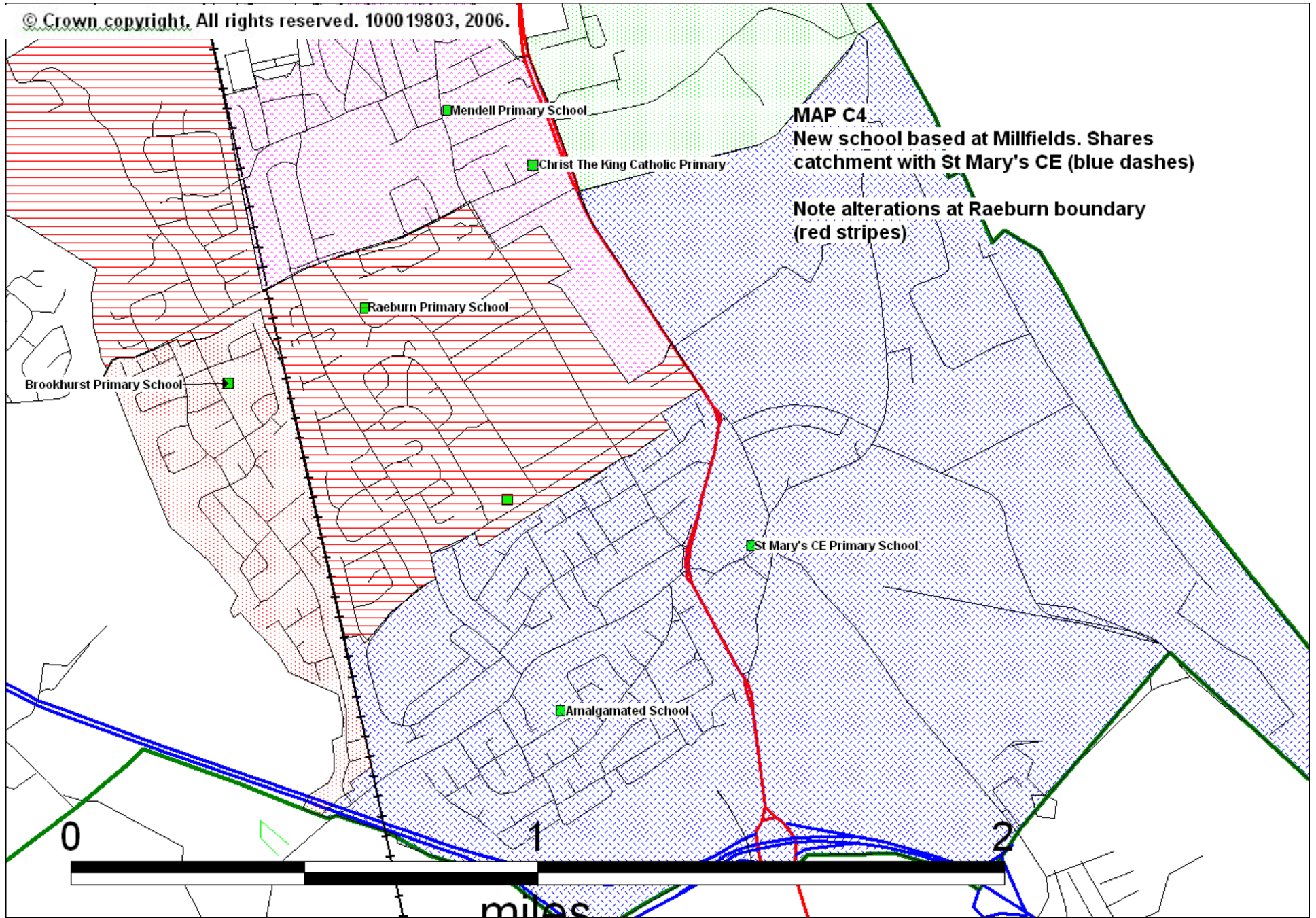
C5: Amalgamate Millfields and Heygarth

- Internal alterations at Heygarth OR 4 new classrooms at Millfields
- Pupil populations overlap
- Two schools just over half a mile apart
- Buildings would be improved
- Children can move together to the same school
- Catchment zones revised



HEYGARTH (Red) and
MILLFIELDS (purple)



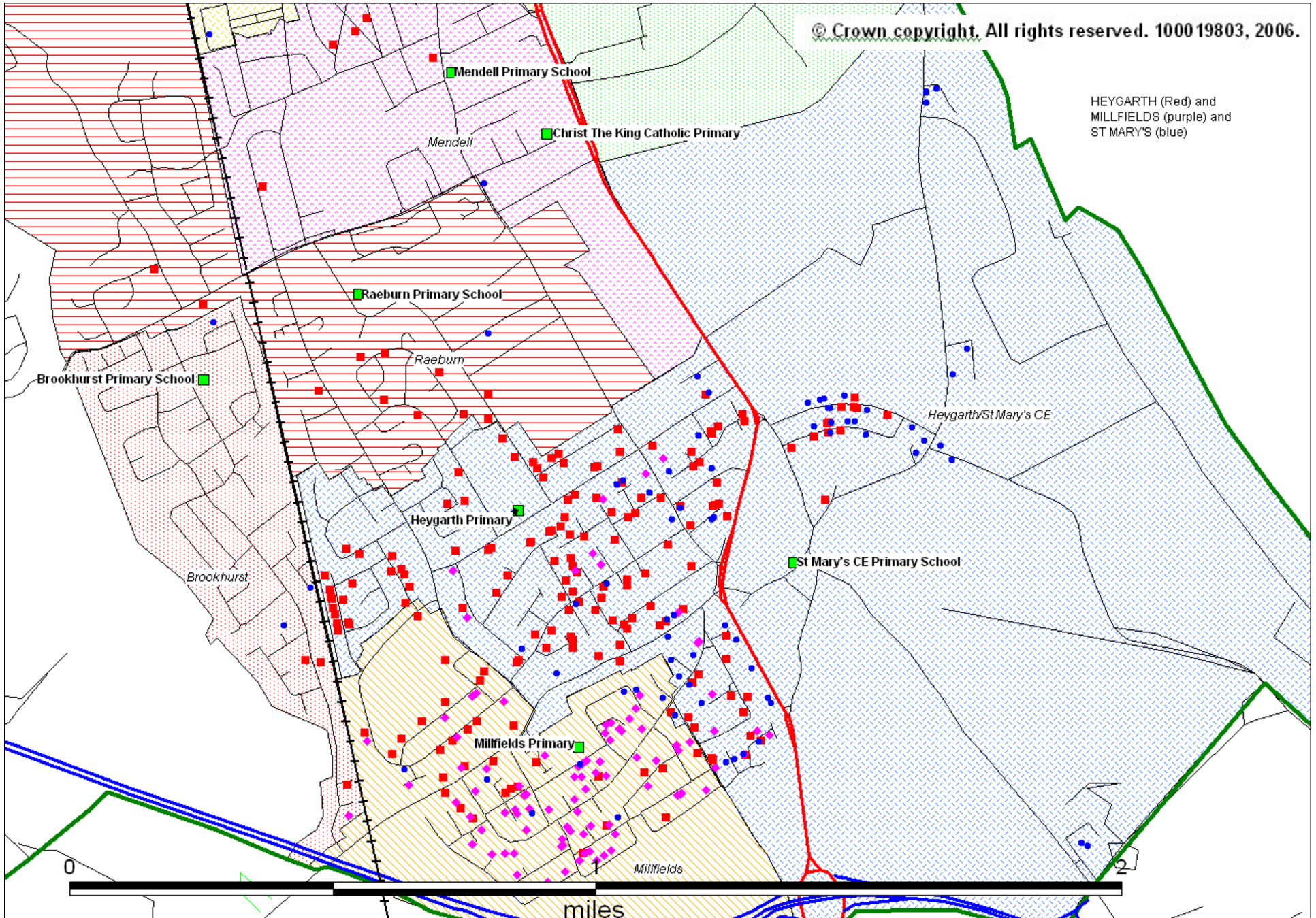




C6: Amalgamate all three schools

- **3 new classrooms at Heygarth OR**
- **7 new classrooms at Millfields OR**
- **New school**
- **Pupil populations of three schools overlap**
- **All three buildings less than a mile apart**
- **Children can move together to the same school**
- **If new school CE Controlled, nearest community schools are Raeburn and Brookhurst**

HEYGARTH (Red) and
MILLFIELDS (purple) and
ST MARY'S (blue)





C1: Closure of St Mary's CE

- A few St Mary's children likely to transfer to Millfields
- No catchment zone changes required

C4: Amalgamate Heygarth and St Mary's

- Two schools less than a mile apart
- Pupil populations overlap, same catchment area – no zone changes required
- St Mary's small, no further extension possible
- Heygarth site can cater for all the children from both schools with internal alterations
- Heygarth buildings would be enhanced
- Children can move together to the same school
- New school likely to be Church of England



In any option

- **Places for all the children in local schools**
- **Parents say which school they would prefer their child to attend**
- **Admissions criteria place the children**
- **Children move together so will have friends in their new school**
- **Enhancements to receiving schools**
- **Community/controlled catchment areas revised**
- **Staff redeployed**
- **Council decide future of any closed community site**

Earliest date for any option is September 2007



What happens next?

January/February 2006

Meetings for directly interested parties – parents, staff, governors

Anyone can write and say what they think

All comments/responses must be made by the beginning of March

March/April 2006

Report goes to Council's cabinet.

Council will decide which (if any) options should become statutory proposals.

If proposals are agreed, notices are published. Six week representation period begins.

Anyone can send written comments or objections.



What happens next?

May/June 2006

Representation period ends.

Proposals go to multi-representative Wirral School Organisation Committee.

- May approve
- May approve with changes
- May give conditional approval – for example, pending planning permission
- May reject

If the SOC cannot agree, proposals are referred to the Schools Adjudicator

September 2007

Earliest date for implementation of proposals.

It could take longer, if building work is required, for example.



Remember:

- No change is not an option
- A decision has not yet been made
- Things will be better - and fairer - afterwards
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- Funding stays in the overall schools budget
- We must find sensible and effective solutions to high levels of empty places, based on all the factors involved.



Christ The King Catholic Primary

Raeburn Primary School

Brookhurst Primary School

Heygarth Primary

St Mary's CE Primary School

Millfields Primary